

REMARKS

To be fully responsive, the Applicants elect the storage case species referred to by the Examiner as category III, the storage case and lock of Claims 55-62 and 66-80, for prosecution on the merits.

The Applicant believes that Claim 55, as amended, is a generic claim. As now amended, the Applicants believe that independent Claims 1-24 and 81, which the Examiner categorized as Category I claims are species of genus Claim 55. As now amended, the Applicants believe that Claims 25-54, which the Examiner categorized as Category II claims, are not distinct from the claims in Category III, but are related as combination and subcombination. Claims 63-65 have been canceled in response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. Thus, as now amended, pending Claims 1-62 and 66-81 are now pending and in condition for allowance.

The Applicants request that the amendments to claims 1-3, 24, 25, 54, 55 and 81 be entered. The amendments merely make explicit that which was implicit in the claims as originally present and, accordingly, do not constitute narrowing amendments.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label #EV162744148US) in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 10, 2003

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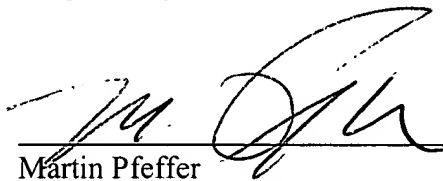
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